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LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

We would like to take this opportunity to bring the Security Council up to date as the Council now considers further action pursuant to the formal lifting of sanctions under resolution 1022 (1995):

1. Under the terms of the Dayton/Paris Agreement, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is committed, as part of the effort to secure a durable peace, to establish normal diplomatic relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina without conditions or delay. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has refused to do so despite our long-standing invitation to do so.

2. The International War Crimes Tribunal has called upon the full cooperation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the "Serb entity", Republika Srpska, within Bosnia and Herzegovina in arresting and extraditing indicted war criminals. The Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement, signed by all the parties, also demanded such full cooperation as an essential element of the peace process. Despite the calls of the Security Council for such compliance and Article 61 demands by the Tribunal, no such compliance is forthcoming.

3. As the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also has concluded, there has been vast manipulation of voter registration in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republika Srpska in an attempt to cement the consequences of ethnic cleansing, which led OSCE to decide to delay the local elections within Bosnia and Herzegovina, probably until the end of November. Therefore, elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina are not complete and as yet cannot be deemed "free and fair" as a whole (no matter what initial conclusions one reaches regarding only the first round of elections). This precondition under resolution 1022 (1995) remains unfulfilled.

4. As of today, the elections have not been certified by OSCE. There is significant indication of irregularities that are still being reviewed. However, the most critical flaw is the failure to secure the necessary preconditions for "free and fair" elections, specifically in the Republika Srpska.

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The Security Council should extract the necessary compliance from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republika Srpska, consistent with the Dayton/Paris Agreement, the Tribunal's demands and its own resolutions, before granting further concessions.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Special Envoy
